

gift, donation or purchase, if necessary. It is generally felt that parks and open space are best when they are within a short distance of all families. It is best to have numerous small parks distributed throughout the community within short walking distance of families to supplement one or two large parks to which the majority of persons must drive to see or enjoy.

Utilization of Love's Stream valley land as a park would not be removing productive land out of active use nor is it lessening the amount of land suitable for urban development. These parks would act as buffers between community areas, neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas. Rather than for active use, the park and open space would be of a passive nature. At the same time, the park is an area where future rights-of-way for sewer and possibly some water lines could be extended. (Stream valleys provide best routes for gravity flow of sewer systems). Flood and watershed control and soil conservation would be very much benefited.

It is not felt that the small stream valley parks will create any expensive maintenance problems. Problems pertaining to stream channels can be eliminated now. For example, if the stream valleys are not acquired at an early date to prevent lot lines from running across streams, the town will be forced at a later time to condemn and purchase property along the streams for future sewer lines and park use. Savings in time and money can be made by reserving or acquiring drainage channels at an early stage or at the time the property is subdivided.

Land adjoining both banks of Love's Creek is proposed for open space use throughout most of the urbanized area. This would create an attractive and continuous park extending through the built up areas and readily accessible to most of them. It would also help eliminate the flood damage by keeping the creek banks open and unobstructed. Finally, it would be an entirely different kind of park atmosphere than is present in the Siler City area.

Another channel park should be formed along the south branch of Love's Creek which runs to the west of the Hillbrook subdivision and into the country club golf course property. The same open space principle would be applied except possibly a small neighborhood playground or park could be more intensively developed along the residential development.

A combination of neighborhood and stream valley parks is designated for the drainage channels in Homewood Acres and along East Third Street. Other channel areas which could be cleaned up to provide some open space are along West Raleigh Street south of Boling Park, along West Second Street at the approach to the town, and west of U. S. 421 south of the motel.

Homewood Acres and Lincoln Heights need developed neighborhood playgrounds more than any other areas in town. The move should be made to provide more of this type of facility for Siler City's children. Persons who own drainage channels should be encouraged to deed this land into park usage or to present it to the community. Clean up projects of drainage channels as civic group activities would provide new areas for immediate enjoyment. It may be feasible to construct a community center and/or swimming pool on property adjacent to one of these stream valley parks.

Six or seven clusters of forested land in the planning area have been included in a park-forest reserve. The objective of this would be to limit development to open

type uses and to provide an opportunity for future public parks. Natural forested areas such as they exist here are valuable scenic assets for Siler City. They form an impressive backdrop to the built up areas and furnish pleasant views of the community.

Forests also provide an important function of ground water storage and greatly reduce runoff from heavy rainfall. The forest cover, once removed and replaced with asphalt and roofs, accelerates erosion and runoff and increases flooding. The preservation for these purposes will add considerably to the appearance and attractiveness of the urban area.

Proposed parks would greatly help the town to maintain its taxable base and property values at a high level over a long period of time. Numerous studies indicate residential property near parks and open space usually has a much higher value and maintains its value longer than property not adjacent to a park.

The active recreation areas of Siler City will also need more attention. The community has done very well to provide its citizens with four lighted ball parks and a swimming pool. Continued maintenance of these assets are important to the community recreation program. Maintenance is not only preventive medicine for eliminating early replacement but the existence of good facilities encourages organized recreation programs for children, teenagers and adults.

Within the future decade, a new swimming pool will be needed for the community. This will permit the phasing out of the existing pool but in the meantime will provide the community with two public swimming pools. The new facility which is being proposed in this text should be larger and better equipped than the pool at Bray Park. Playground equipment at the Bray and Boling Parks will also have to be replaced during the future.

Of immediate need to the community is a youth recreation center. There is little organized activity for the youth in the evenings unless it is connected with school or church activities. Should the community leaders or a civic group work with this idea, they would be wise to select a site that is accessible to the majority of the community's young people and is of sufficient size for off-street parking and expansion of the initial facilities. The total project might include the swimming pool mentioned above, basketball and tennis courts.

Another form of active recreation facility which needs improvement in Siler City are tennis courts at Bray Park. The comfortable year-round climate would permit an extended season of tennis. Lighted, hard surfaced courts could realize double use as a site for teen dances and other entertainment assemblages. A tennis court or two should be located on the north and/or west sides of town. The expansion of Jordan Mathews athletic facilities may make the inclusion of tennis part of their total program. In this case, courts could be developed on the school property. Outdoor courts could also be used for volleyball, basketball, and other recreation activities.

The climate also permits year-round golfing in Siler City. The private country club development south of town now provides a nine hole golf course to members. The corporation has plans to add nine more holes in the next several years. In addition, country club members have use privileges of the club's swimming pool.